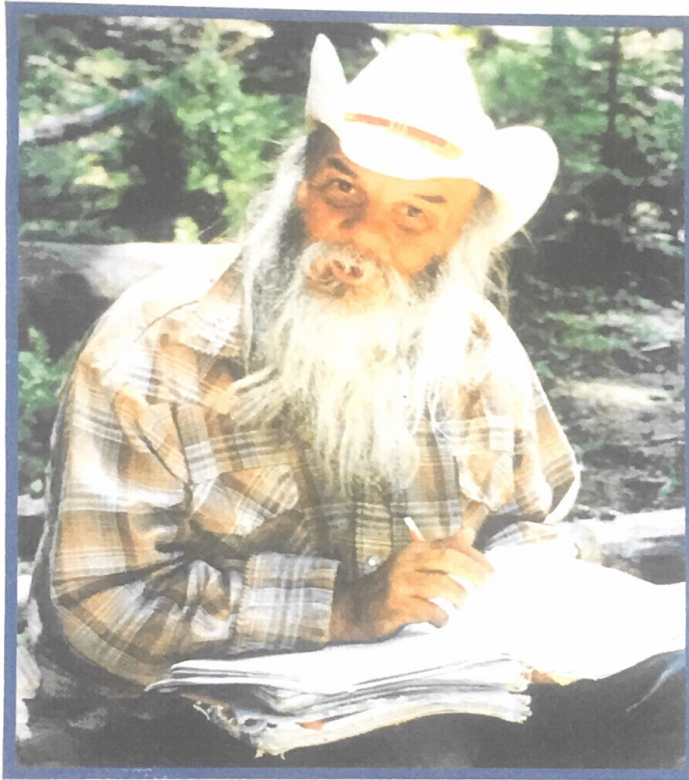




Rainbow Family Life Stories



*by Jodey Bateman.
Interviews with Rainbow
Family of Living Light
folks conducted between
1977 and 2008.*

*Scanned in 2018.
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12.E

BA - "Too Earthy, Too Gypsy"

4 pages

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Ba - Too Earthy, Too Gypsy

PS

Grandfather David Monongye, a Hopi Indian who came to the New Mexico Gathering told me my name means Bread in Navajo. The name Ba was given to me as a child by my little sister who couldn't pronounce my original name, Barbara.

I was born in Rochester, New York, in 1950. My father is a salesman and a business executive. My mother has managed craft stores. I never learned how to do crafts then. I was more sports-oriented - swimming, baseball, hiking - lots of outdoors. I enjoyed outdoor activities. We went to the Third Presbyterian Church. My mother taught me to pray. I used to pray every night. My parents were real sharing people. They had a lot of love in their hearts, but they didn't lay a heavy church trip on us.

I went to a girls' school called Briarcliff my first year of college. I liked school. I didn't like homework. My second year I went to the University of Colorado. When I was there, things started speeding up more and more and I started getting away from my studies and more into other things beside school. That's what made me drop out. I took acid for the first time and smoked a lot of pot and found Jesus. I used to talk to Jesus a lot. I was a follower child.

I moved onto a farm, a commune out in the country that had apple trees, and we planted a garden and ate lots of peyote and LSD and smoked a lot of pot and hash. It seemed like an eternity I lived on the commune, but it was just like summer and fall. I've been living communally since then. After that I started realizing that we could live on love. I went to Vermont with some people and we lived in an abandoned house in the hills for free. There was a constantly changing group of people there. We had a beautiful garden. We raised a lot of nice marijuana, eight feet high.

I met Jeff, the love of my life, when I went home from the commune in Vermont to visit my parents. Then he and I started being gypsies on the road. We started living in tipis in the country. That started my tipi life. We've always had a tipi with us since then. We've lived in a tipi in about five or six states. You have to learn to live close to the elements in a tipi. When it rains it can be uncomfortable.

I had studied wild flowers and organic foods before - plus I have a natural tendency to be a telepathic person. I have lots of visions and

dreams. A vision is like an inner sight. It's not necessarily external. I have fasted to become lighter and in fasting you open doors and these things can come through. I've had visions of all of us on the earth living close to nature in tipis. The Rainbow Gathering is like one of my visions manifesting. And I've had a vision that all of the world will be like one family and no matter where you go, to a store or whatever, everybody will know they are one family and treat each other like that.

I've had dreams - how can I describe it? They've shown me things. I dreamed once that the whole world was coming to an end. The trees were like crashing and falling down. Everything was falling down, the outer world, you know. I was wondering where I was gonna go, if I was gonna die. Then I was taken into this room where everyone was sitting in lotus positions, very silent and very peaceful.

After the healing gathering, we went to the Montana Rainbow Gathering. I got real high there. I wound up leaving the gathering with just a small pack on my back, leaving my relationship with the man I loved to follow a man I believed was Jesus Christ. His name was Joy-Sun. He raised my consciousness a lot. My mind was totally shattered. I died and was reborn. He helped me open doors that were just waiting to be opened. He didn't claim to be Jesus, but he felt Christ was in his heart and he had seen the light - just knowing we were all God. He was trying to help people realize that in their hearts. We went and visited his parents and my parents. And he helped me work out a lot of things with my parents that were heavy on my head. He used to look like Jesus Christ to me and when he spoke, he spoke the truth more than any man I ever heard. He had something about him that either repelled people or attracted them. Some people were really afraid of him.

I had to face a lot of fears, fears everyone has. Fears of not being loved and accepted - not loving yourself. He gave me a new look at myself, which I needed. I followed him for four months. It seemed like a long time. When he left me, it just happened in the flow. It seemed like the right thing. He went to Minnesota and I stayed where I was, working out trips with my parents. I've never seen him since then, but he's still in my heart. I still think he is definitely a servant of God.

then came back to Washington and started living with the Flowering Tree Family where Jeff was. I had been a vegetarian. I still don't eat meat very often, but if a deer comes to our family, I eat it. I've gotten over my hangups about not eating meat. If food comes from God, it's a blessing. I've learned to tan deer and elk hides. It's a discipline. It takes concentration and you have to physically put out a lot of effort. Tanning leather makes your hands stronger. If we find cats dead on the road, we skin them for their hides. The hides smell, but you start getting used to it. The children sometimes help. Sky Pony, a boy who's nine years old, does tanning.

We were raising a lot of medicinal herbs, comfrey and others. And root crops - potatoes, Jerusalem artichokes, onions. And tomatoes, cabbages, barley, beans. We started doing a lot of trading work from our family for free food from other people. We really got into it at harvest time. Our aim was to become self-sufficient. We started getting into horses a lot. We had like two or three horses and a lot of ponies. They were just given. Our family, we don't have a lot of money, so we wait for things to come to us. We had running water - in a creek. No electricity.

I saw births at Flowering Tree. I got into that energy. There were four babies born at home at Flowering Tree - all healthy. The number of people in Flowering Tree is changeable, like the Rainbow Family. There are from 20 to 40 people usually. Hundreds of people have put through and I'm sure many of them consider themselves part of our family.

I felt a lot of space energy at the Montana Gathering - like a lot of people from outer space were just hanging out there watching us. At the New Mexico Gathering in 1977, I felt more American Indian spirit. I was with the Krishna people there a lot. I got into chanting and learned how it can help raise your vibration.

It was about then I got pregnant with Antali. That means White Antelope in the Pind'Oreille language. Jeff and I were living in northern Idaho and that's the Indians who used to live there. I found the word Antali in a book called A Tough Trip Through Paradise. Antali came out real dark. He looked like a little Indian. I wondered, "Could that be mine?" I was reborn by having a baby. It opened me up to the Great Mother, Mary. I use a cradle board for Antali. The cradle board frame has passed through four or five babies at

Flowering Tree.

It's funny. I used to think I didn't have any anger in me, but since the whole purification thing has started, I've found a lot of things like anger I didn't know were there. I didn't think there was jealousy in me, but then when I'd see Jeff and other women would be flirting with him or when he'd be showing a lot of love to a woman - not jumping into bed - I'd be jealous. But now I'm getting to where I can let the love flow. Now I'm letting the Spirit be my guide.

The Flowering Tree Family had to leave the land we were on because the people who owned the land felt they were losing control. They wanted a more middle-class trip and we were too earthy, too gypsy for them. They wanted us to open a school where we would charge money because we are crafts people - artists and musicians. Instead we taught people for love.

Right now we're living at the gathering in Oregon. We don't know where we're going from here. We're just in the flow.